



Report To:	Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services and Rhonda McCauley, Social Program Supervisor
Date:	September 27, 2012
Re:	Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative - Issue Report

### **Recommendations:**

That the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB calls upon the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to continue to work with Association of Municipalities (AMO) to re-evaluate the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding allocations, specifically the use of the "Deep Core Housing Need Information" for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

That the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB calls upon the Province of Ontario to commit to reinvesting 50% of the savings of the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefits into the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative proportionately to the DSB's expenditures.

### **Purpose:**

Following the Provincial Budgetary Announcement, the province, AMO and City of Toronto committed to working together on the development of the new Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

### **Background:**

#### **Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB)**

CSUMB is a mandatory social assistance benefit that provides funding to eligible recipients to assist with the costs of:

- establishing a new residence
- preventing eviction or discontinuation of heating or utilities
- maintaining an existing residence

The CSUMB benefit is provided for:

- victims of family violence
- persons who are homeless
- persons who reside in uninhabitable premises (where the uninhabitable conditions are not clearly evident, verification is sought from a third party, e.g., a building or health inspector or physician)
  
- persons leaving a residence due to:
  - incapacity or death of a supporting care-giver/family member(s);
  - overcrowding within the premises;
  - documented need for children and sole-support parents to relocate;
  - eviction from the premises;
  - employment or training; or
  - a move to more affordable accommodations, where the applicant or recipient was experiencing undue hardship because of extreme shelter costs.
  
- persons being discharged from institutions such as:
  - correctional facilities;
  - hospitals;
  - hostels;
  - long-term care homes;
  - special care homes; or
  - interval and transition homes.

All Ontario Works and ODSP clients may be eligible to access CSUMB which provides up to a maximum of \$1,500 for recipients with one or more dependent children in a 24 month period; or up to a maximum of \$799 where there are no dependent children in a 24 month period.

The CSUMB benefit will be removed from the Social Assistance system effective January 1, 2013.

## **Housing and Homelessness Programs**

A commitment to housing and homelessness program consolidation was one of the outcomes from the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. Consolidating housing and homelessness-related programs is a key part of Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) to transform the housing system and put people first. Under LTAHS, the Province committed to consolidate the following housing and homelessness related programs:

- Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program;
- Emergency Energy Fund;
- Emergency Hostel Services;
- Domiciliary Hostel Program; and
- Provincial Rent Bank.

## Analysis & Discussion:

In the [July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 letter](#) from MMAH, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB was advised of our preliminary funding allocations under the first phase of the new consolidated funding model; the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

Moving to this new funding model marks a shift in our role as Service Manager around the planning, managing, and funding of housing and homelessness services and programs.

The new approach to provincial homelessness program funding will combine funding from the five existing homelessness related programs listed above into a single funding envelope.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a 100% provincially funded investment that amounts to approximately \$246 million for 2013-14. This includes the current level of funding associated with the five existing programs. The amount also includes 50 percent of provincial expenditures from the former Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit and the scheduled upload related to CSUMB.

The allocation for each Service Manager is based on a combination of current funding and needs-based funding.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's 2011 expenses in CSUMB benefit totaled \$262,490. The 50% provincial share totals \$131,245 which was transferred to CHPI.

Current Funding (Base Funding):

<b>Program</b>	<b>2011-12 Funding Allocation</b>
Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program	\$68,372
Emergency Energy Fund	\$7,930
Domiciliary Hostel Program	\$0
Provincial Rent Bank	\$13,967
<b>Total 4 Programs</b>	<b>\$90,269</b>

New Allocation (Needs Based Funding):

<b>Needs-Based Funding</b>	<b>Funding Allocation</b>
New (2013-14)	\$67,877

Summary of Total Funding Allocation

<b>Total CHPI Funding</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
Base Funding	\$90,269
Needs-Based Funding	\$67,877
<b>Total Funding Allocation</b>	<b>\$158,431</b>

Based on the information presented above, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is only receiving 52% of the \$131,245. **This is a 48% reduction in funding.**

## **Related Issue:**

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Program

In a [letter dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011](#) from Minister Kathleen Wynne, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB was allocated \$1,015,176 under the Investment in Affordable Housing Program. Under the [IAH program guidelines](#), Service Managers were provided with a 3 year notional funding allocation based on the Service Managers' share of the province's households and the number of household in core need.

When this funding was announced the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB had previously received on average \$1,025,750 per year from 2007 to 2010 under RRAP and Northern Repair programs.

The new IAH allocations provided on average \$253,794 per year for the period of 2012 – 2015. This resulted in a loss of \$750,000 per year in funding for this DSB. It should be noted that the IAH allocations also used the Deep Core Housing Need Information similar to the new Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

## **Conclusion:**

It remains unclear as to how we will be able to fill the gaps these decisions are creating. There are serious implications to these decisions that may further expose our residents to risk and hardship. We are already struggling with reduced budgets and are concerned with the ability to meet local needs.

We believe that the use of "[Deep Core Housing Needs Information](#)" which is based on Statistics Canada data is adversely affecting the funding that is made available to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and possibly other Northern and rural Service Managers.

We would ask that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing review its use of the "Deep Core Housing Need Information" to ensure it adequately reflects the needs of smaller Northern and Rural communities.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB calls upon the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to continue to work with AMO to review the distribution of the new funding allocations, specifically the use of the "Deep Core Housing Need Information" for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.